

Barrington's Substance Abuse Task Force

Drug Free Community Coalition

Barrington High School

200 Lincoln Avenue

January 5, 2015 at 8:45 am.

Minutes

Present:

Present: Kathy Sullivan (Staff), Dr. Kristen Westmoreland (Staff), Joanne Royley (School), Stacie McLoughlin (Parent), Deb Jerome (Civic group), Sara Kriz (media), Jen Sapolsky (parent), Susan Freel (parent), Ann Johnston (School), Chief John LaCross (Law Enforcement), Deena Davis (Youth Serving Organization)

Not present: Eileen Johnson (Healthcare), Alexandra Ray (youth), Harper Berriman (youth), Diane Block (health care), Bill Cameron (business), Grethe Cobb (healthcare), Claudia Gordon (Parent), Maureen Janetta (School), Bob Shea (School), Chuck Lzbash (Youth Serving Organization), Eleanor Swe (Parent), Kim Kelly (youth), Heather Annis (Faith Community), Brendan Curran (Faith Community). Heidi Fanion (Parent), Jonathan Ashuler (School), Elsie Wright (School), Deb Perugini (parent), Denise Alves (State Organization with Expertise in field of substance abuse), Steve Bucka

(Healthcare)

Committee Reports

The high school has been approached by John Leary of the local Rotary Club to offer a prevention presentation by Chris Herren. The Chief also mentioned a prevention assembly by a former wrestler.

Parenting – the group has been busy planning two projects. One is a Stress Free garden spot at Hampden Meadows. The idea is to create a low maintenance garden area where students can go to learn to relax when the school day is stressful. The school is applying for a BEF grant in partnership with the BAY Team.

We are also developing the lam program. In partnership with Dena Davis, this is a program for those who work with youth and also for youth. It is helping at risk youth learn to develop a passion or spark for something. It is also a “train the trainer” for those adults who work with youth – helping them to learn how they can help teens reach their potential and find a passion. We are still developing the logistics, but it is an exciting new project. The whole project will be filmed in a documentary style for future use, ie grant applications and education.

Marijuana – the committee just sent out an educational mailer to the Barrington community. We focused on the three main points that marijuana affects academic performance, that it is addictive and that it impairs driving. Very little feedback so far. Some has been positive.

The Chief was asking if we are collecting information on the negative consequences in Colorado which we are. KS tried to give this information to state legislators who did not wish to consider it this session.

The group is also planning an MJ media insert to be sent through the schools.

We will also be doing a Regional Meeting in the community on April 8th. This is one of six taking place across the state. It will be a multi-disciplinary team of people to offer the science of marijuana and present its negative impact on teens.

It was suggested that parents may find it helpful to see the prices spent on marijuana and alcohol.

Policy and Prescription Drug – we are combining these two committees because of lack of numbers on both. We are about to re-schedule the next meeting.

BAY Youth – they are hosting a Text and Driving at BHS assembly this week. This is an assembly supported by the Atty General's

Office.

Leigh Repoza of RI Student Assistance Services will train the BHS faculty on Suicide prevention on Tuesday. Chief Lacross to attend. BAY Team members would also like information on this topic.

Social Justice – this is a new committee that will be working through the faith community to support youth. The first task is a Circle Process, getting the teens to identify the social issues they view as problematic and look at ways to address those issues.

Sustainability – KW suggested that we have a couple of BAY Team members meet with Town Council liaison, Mike Carroll, and School Committee member Bob Shea to discuss the need for future funding support once the grants end.

Any Other Business:

Adjourn